



December 14, 2016

Dear Candidates and Campaign Workers:

The Secretary of State has provided us with the Legislation enacted by the State Legislature. The following are the regulations that effect Candidates and Campaign Workers:

CANDIDATES: House Bill 332 makes it a Class C misdemeanor for a candidate to be present in a polling place during Early Voting or on Election Day, unless the candidate is voting or conducting official business within the building in which the polling place is located. Even if the candidate is not in the building for one of these reasons, they will not violate the section if they are not engaged in campaign activities, and are not within plain view or hearing of persons waiting to vote or persons voting.

Section 61.003 prohibits loitering or electioneering in the polling place during the time that the polls are open for voting. Bystanders are excluded from the voting area.

POLITICAL SIGNS: The Act provides a notice requirement on political advertising signs stating: It is a violation of state law to place this sign in the right-of-way of a highway.

ID REQUIREMENTS: Texas Voters must now show one of the following forms of photo ID when voting in person

- Texas Driver's License – unexpired or expired less than 60 days
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS – unexpired or expired less than 60 days
- Texas concealed handgun license – unexpired or expired less than 60 days
- U.S. passport – unexpired or expired less than 60 days
- U.S. military identification with photo – unexpired or expired less than 60 days
- U.S. citizenship certificate with photo – (does not expire)
- Election Identification Certificate – if you do not have any of the forms of ID listed above, you may apply for the Election ID Certificate. This form of ID is available at the DPS office at no charge and may be used for voting purposes only.

Voters should be aware that their name on their voter certificate and their name on their identification document should be substantially similar. If your name is not similar, you may want to contact the Gregg County Elections office to update your voter registration.



There are a few exemptions to the new rule:

- If you are voting by mail, you do not have to submit a photo ID.
- If you have a disability documented by the Social Security Administration or by the Department of Veterans Affairs, you may apply at the Gregg County Elections office for a permanent exemption from the photo ID requirement. If accepted, you will not have to show ID when you go to the polls.
- If you have no photo ID as a result of a declared natural disaster, or have a religious objection to being photographed, you may vote a "provisional ballot" at the polls. You will have 6 days after the election to sign an affidavit at the Elections office to allow your ballot to be counted.

Voters who do not have an exemption and do not show a photo ID when they vote at the polls will have to vote a "provisional ballot". They will have 6 days after the election to go to the Elections office to present a photo ID in order for their ballot to be counted.

For more information on the voter ID requirement contact:

Gregg County Elections

903-237-2652 or 903-236-8458

101 E. Methvin, Suite 112, Gregg County Courthouse

Kathryn.nealy@co.gregg.tx.us

APPLICATIONS FOR A BALLOT BY MAIL: HB 2057 provides that all applications for a ballot by mail, whether the official form or an informal application, must be addressed to the **Official Voting Clerk:** *City Secretary, City of Longview, or Shelly Ballenger, City Secretary, P. O. Box 1952, Longview, TX 75606.* All applications not addressed to the Official Voting Clerk must be rejected.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelly Ballenger".

Shelly Ballenger,
City Secretary